Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister will be pleased to inspect that office and find out whether there was any written offer received and the record has been destroyed.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I do not find any real necessity because there is the report of the Departmental Head that no offer was received.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I have personally assured.....

Mr. President: Order, order. The Hon'ble Member is not asking for information. The Hon'ble Member is entitled to put questions in order to elicit information.

BLACK-MARKETING OF COTTON YARN

297. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have received stamped anonymous or pseudonymous petitions about the illicit transport and black-marketing of cotton yarn of 80 counts, etc., by the hand-loom weavers and traders of Kuthampilly, etc.;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps were taken to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the allegation;

(*c*) what, if any, are the results and the final orders passed by Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of (*a*).

(*c*) Do.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware of any petition being submitted to the Director of Industries as Controller of Yarn.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Secretary to Government):* He has not received any petition.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Whether the Government is aware of any enquiry being couducted in Kuthampilli about the transport of yarn.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M. B. E. *(Secretary to Government):* No. Not aware.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE—CLOTH BLACK-MARKET

298. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have come across the article in the "Jenmabhumi" "Cloth Black Market" in its issue, dated 15th Makaram 1120, page 1;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether they have been pleased to enquire into the various pointed allegations contained therein;

(*c*) what steps if any have been taken to remedy the evils complained of?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The statements made in the article are exaggerated. It is true that there is some difficulty in the matter of distribution of cloth. This is primarily due to the insufficiency of the quota allotted to the State and the difficulty in getting the desired varieties. When supply is short, it is impossible to ensure even distribution of one and the same variety, *e.g.*, Mettur Mull, to all retailers. Government are alive to the need for securing adequate supplies. They have already taken up the matter with the Textile Authorities in Bombay.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that these wholesale dealers insist on retailers to purchase from them certain qualities of cloth which are not saleable anywhere along with other sailable cloth.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M. B. E. *(Secretary to Government):* No.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is the distribution of these between the wholesalers, equitably done or is any favour shown?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M. B. E. *(Secretary to Government):* No favouritism is allowed.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is the Government aware that in the last distribution of cloth obtained from the Chitra Mills, probably the distribution was high in certain cases and very low in certain other cases?

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